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the light of what should logically happen in military and political affairs with what has actually occurred within the past year is worth noting.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

## POLAR

**Deutsche Südpolar-Expedition, 1901-1903.** Herausgegeben von Erich von Drygalski. II. Band: Geographie und Geologie. Pp. 619-662. Ills. Georg Reimer, Berlin, 1912.

This seventh part of Vol. II of the official report on the scientific results of the German Antarctic Expedition consists of an introduction by the leader of the expedition, Erich von Drygalski, containing a most sympathetic necrology of his companions, E. Philippi and A. Stehr (who died in 1910 and 1909 respectively), and of three reports: the first by Philippi on the rocks and terrigenous material found in icebergs and the inland ice, the second and third by R. Reinisch on the petrography of the Antarctic erratics and the rocks collected *in situ* by the expedition on the Atlantic islands, St. Helena, Ascension, São Vicente and São Miguel.

The most striking characteristic of these reports is the absolute lack of consideration for the researches done previously in the same field of work. It is hard to understand how it was possible to avoid mentioning the master work of A. F. Renard on volcanic islands in a report where simply additional material to our knowledge of the rocks of some Atlantic islands is treated. If this omission was intended, one would like to know why the previous researches were not worthy of mention, or of criticism.

The same remark holds good for the other report of Reinisch, no mention being made of the rocks dredged during the Antarctic cruise of the *Challenger* 12° west of the *Gauss* station, and practically in the same latitude. Anyone who is interested in the geology of the Antarctic ought to know the important conclusions which, long ago, were drawn by Sir John Murray from the study of these erratics, and it would not have been at all out of place to compare the *Gauss* rocks with those of the *Challenger*.

In the memoir of Philippi a very complete description is given of the conditions under which the rocks were embedded in the ice of icebergs, and his work is a most valuable glaciological contribution. One can easily understand why no mention is made of previous similar observations, his conclusions aiming mainly toward the geological knowledge of the unknown Antarctic coasts east of the *Gauss* station. However, here again (p. 627) one has the right to take exception to the fact that this "high land" mentioned as situated east of Posadowski Bay, though evidently Termination Land, discovered long ago by Wilkes, is not mentioned as such.

Finally, in the introduction, von Drygalski, praising highly the sounding tube used during the voyage of the *Gauss*, says (p. viii) that such tubes were used for the first time on that vessel. This statement is worse than wrong, because such tubes were used on the *Belgica* in 1898 and 1899 with splendid results (bringing, in the case of the last *Belgica* sounding, deep sea sediment 60 centimeters thick from a depth of 4,800 meters); and these tubes were described and recommended to von Drygalski before his departure for the Antarctic. It is unpleasant for this reviewer to make this criticism; but even if von Drygalski had forgotten in 1912 the suggestion made to him in 1900, he should not have ignored what was printed in the *Memoirs* of the Belgian Academy (Memoires couronnés . . . collection in 8vo, Vol. 61: Bruxelles, 1901), as well as the small drawing published in the *Geographical Journal* in 1899 (Vol. 14, p. 80).

HENRYK ARCTOWSKI.

**The North Pole and Bradley Land.** By Edwin Swift Balch. 91 pp. Chart, index. Campion & Co., Philadelphia, 1913. 10½ x 7.

The author of this book is well known among geographers as the leading American writer and authority on Antarctic topics. Mr. Balch's literary results are always based upon careful study of data and critical use of them. He has, of course, employed his usual method in writing this book; and he has reached the conclusion that Dr. Cook's claim to have attained the North Pole has not been disproved.

Before discussing the evidence in the case Mr. Balch brings together in a short chapter the names of distinguished travelers such as Marco Polo, Amerigo Vespucci and many others who were first doubted and afterwards vindicated.

Mr. Balch bases his argument in favor of the credibility of Cook's claim to have reached the Pole upon an analysis and comparison of three journeys: Peary in 1906, described in his book "Nearest the Pole"; Cook in 1908, described in the *New York Herald* in 1909 and in his book "My Attainment of the Pole" published in 1911; and Peary in 1909, described in his book "The North Pole" published in 1910. Mr. Balch's book will probably stand as the best setting forth of the matter in justification of Dr. Cook's contention that has been or will be written. It is well to have his argument and conclusions on record. All geographers are, of course, in hearty accord with Mr. Balch's faith that Arctic exploration will not cease till all its secrets are revealed.

**Croisière Océanographique Accomplie à Bord de la Belgica dans la Mer du Grönland, 1905.** Relation Succincte du Voyage. Par A. de Gerlache. 70 pp. Maps, ills. 1909.

**Campagne Arctique de 1907.** (1) Étude Lithologique de Fonds Recueillis dans les Parages de la Nouvelle-Zemble. Par J. Thoulet. 28 pp. Maps, ills. (2) Microplankton des Mers de Barents et de Kara. Accompanied by plates in separate case. Par le Dr. Alph. Meunier. xviii and 355 pp. (3) Journal de Bord et Physique du Globe. 99 pp. Maps, ills. Imprimerie Scientifique, C. Bulens, Éditeur, Brussels, 1910–11. 14 x 11 each.

The scientific results which challenge attention in the narrative of this cruise are the remarkable set of soundings taken by the author's party. The explorers owed much of their success to the exceptionally favorable ice conditions prevailing north of lat. 76° in the summer of 1905. Deep sea observations were made while proceeding from north to south. Evidence of a suboceanic zone of relief in lat. 78° 10′ N. and between 5° and 17° W. can be inferred from the figures reported by Commandant de Gerlache. The relative shallowness of the western portion of this area appears to be particularly well marked. Here the length of line unwound did not exceed 58 meters in one instance and attained a maximum of only 490 meters for a degree and a half east and west of meridian 15° W. This submerged eminence[1] was called the Belgica Bank. Its morainic character was determined by the nature of the lithological specimens brought up.

The exploration of the east coast of Greenland between lat. 77° and 79°, while superseded by Erichsen's mapping, deserves notice as valuable pioneer work for its day.

Biological investigations made in the Kara and Barents Seas during the 1907 cruise of the Belgica were incorporated in a monograph by Mr. Meunier. This scientist has restricted the use of the term microplankton throughout his report to designate unicellular proto-organisms. This use will undoubtedly appeal to biologists far more than the meaning usually accorded to the word whereby it refers to differentiation based on size. The color of the yellow snow was attributed to the presence of the *Diamylon nivale* among the microphytes examined. LEON DOMINIAN.

## ANTHROPOGEOGRAPHY

**La Géographie Humaine.** Essai de classification positive. Principes et exemples. Par Jean Brunhes. 2ème édition, revue et augmentée. xv and 798 pp. Maps, ills., index. Félix Alcan, Paris, 1912. Fr. 20. 10 x 6½.*

Two chapters (8 and 10) in which topics of recent progress in the study of geography are discussed have been partly rewritten and extended. In amplifying his comments on the value of regional studies in the sense implied by the German term of "Länderkunde" Brunhes adheres more firmly to his previous stand according to which regional geography must be regarded as the ultimate object of research instead of as a preliminary investigation.

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[1] For general correlation see Groll's Map of the Atlantic Ocean in *Veröffentl. d. Inst. f. Meeresk.* Neue Folge: A, Heft 2, Taf. 1, Berlin, 1912.

* See review of the first edition by Mark Jefferson in the *Bulletin*, Vol. 43, June, 1911, pp. 467–469.